

MESSAGE TO
MINERS

APRIL 14, 1865

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ADDRESSES

1864-1865

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Late Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865

Message to Miners
April 14, 1865

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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LINCOLN'S DYING MESSAGE TO THE MINERS.

Speaker Colfax was about to depart on a trip to the Pacific coast, when President Lincoln said to him:

"Mr. Colfax, I want you to take a message for me to the miners whom you visit. I have very large ideas of the mineral wealth of our nation. I believe it practically inexhaustible. It abounds all over the western country, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, and its development has scarcely commenced. During the war, when we were adding a couple of millions of dollars every day to our national debt, I did not care about encouraging the increase in the volume of our precious metals. We had the country to save first. But now that the rebellion is overthrown, and we know pretty nearly the amount of our national debt, the more gold and silver we mine, we make the payment of that debt so much easier. Now," said he, speaking with more emphasis, "I am going to encourage that in every possible way. We shall have hundreds of thousands of disbanded soldiers, and many have feared that their return home in such great numbers might paralyze industry, by furnishing, suddenly, a greater supply of labor than there will be demand for. I am going to try to attract them to the hidden wealth of our mountain ranges, where there is room enough for all. Immi-

gration, which even the war has not stopped, will land upon our shores hundreds of thousands more per year from overcrowded Europe. I intend to point them to the gold and silver that wait for them in the West. Tell the miners for me, that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability, because their prosperity is the prosperity of the nation; and," said he, his eye kindling with enthusiasm, "we shall prove, in a very few years, that we are indeed the treasury of the world."

This address was made on the morning of Friday, April 14, 1865, the very day of his assassination, so that his dying official utterance was a message to the miners.—
Mining Science.

Abraham Lincoln on Silver.

On the afternoon before the assassination, when vice-President Schuyler Colfax was on the eve of departing for the west on business, President Lincoln said to him:

"Mr. Colfax, I want you to take a message from me to the miners whom you visit. I have very large ideas of the mineral wealth of our nation. Now that the rebellion is overthrown and we know pretty nearly the amount of our national debt, the more **GOLD AND SILVER** we mine makes the payment of that debt so much the easier. Now I am going to encourage that in every possible way. We shall have hundreds of thousands of disbanded soldiers, and many have feared that their return home in such great numbers might paralyze industry by furnishing suddenly a greater supply of labor than there will be a demand for. I am going to try and attract them to the hidden wealth of our mountain ranges where there is room enough for all. Immigration, which even the war has not stopped, will land upon our shores hundreds of thousands more per year from over-crowded Europe. I intend to point them to the **GOLD AND SILVER** that awaits them in the west. Tell the miners from me that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability, because **THEIR PROSPERITY IS THE PROSPERITY OF THE NATION**; and we shall prove in a very few years that we are the **TREASURY OF THE WORLD**."

These are the last glorious words of Lincoln. O thou Immortal! In thy staunch and capacious heart there was a place for even the miners and mining interest of our country. Thy last words of public concern in this world was how this war debt was about to be paid with the treasures of the mountains! To remember such a man and to compare him with the poor machine politicians who are now truckling and fawning upon the Hessian Rothschild in order to support the treasury of the United States should kindle in every patriotic soul a fire in which the flames of inspiration are blended with flashes of undying contempt!—Decorah Journal.

